Woodbridge Urban District Council.

Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1969

C.H. IMRIE,
T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Late Hon. Surgeon to H.M. the Queen.

Eden Lodge,
Woodbridge.

October, 1970.

The Chairman and Councillors,
Woodbridge Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1969.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population for the year shows a small increase over the previous year from 6,980 to 7,070.

The standardised Birth Rate shows a slight fall but the figure remains well above that for England and Wales.

Still Births and Infantile Deaths numbered 2 and 3 respectively and are in line with the figures for previous years.

The Death Rate standardised at 10·5 per thousand compares well with previous years and is fractionally lower than the rate for England and Wales.

Examination of Deaths classified by causes shows a fall in those due to malignant disease during the year. There were 13 compared with 22 in 1968. Heart Disease of the Ischaemic Type also showed a decrease.

Notifiable disease in 1969 produced only 11 notifications. This is the second year in succession with a low notification rate and the virtual absence of Measles probably contributed to this result. The campaign of immunisation against Measles is undoubtedly a factor in this result.

Immunisation against Rubella or German Measles is now becoming available and is certainly to be recommended for young females especially. The disastrous results of a mother being infected by Rubella in the early stages of pregnancy have been well publicised and need no more than a mention here. At the moment it is recommended that girls 11 to 14 should be given priority.

I would like to thank the Council for its continued support during the year and I would also take this opportunity to mention my gratitude to the Officers of the Council with special mention of Mr. Snowden for their willing co-operation.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

C.H. IMRIE,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Area of District	1112 acres	Population	7070
No. of inhabited houses ...	2591	Product of Penny Rate	£906

OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:
C.H. IMRIE, T.D., Q.H.S.,
M.B., Ch.B.,
D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector:
D.W. SNOWDEN, F.R.S.H.,
M.A.P.H.I.,
M.R.I.P.H.H.

Engineer & Surveyor:
JOHN SMITH, M.I.Mun.E.,
M.I.H.E.

Summary of Vital Statistics

1960 to 1969

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Estimated Population	6190	6020	6070	6100	6260	6290	6360	6540	6980	7070
Birth Rate	16·18 (100)	12·2 (77)	14·6 (89)	12·9 (79)	16·9 (106)	14·1 (89)	17·4 (111)	16·1 (105)	16·8 (117)	14·3 (101)
Still Birth Rate	10·0 (1)	nil	21·9 (2)	48·2 (4)	9·43 (1)	21·9 (2)	34·7 (4)	18·6 (2)	nil	19·8 (2)
Death Rate	11·9 (74)	12·4 (75)	13·8 (84)	15·5 (95)	12·6 (79)	11·4 (72)	11·0 (70)	13·9 (91)	14·2 (99)	11·5 (81)
Infantile Death Rate	50·0 (5)	12·9 (1)	11·2 (1)	37·9 (3)	9·34 (1)	33·7 (3)	27·0 (3)	19·0 (2)	9·0 (1)	30·0 (3)

Note: Infantile Death Rate is the rate per 1,000 live births - the other rates are per 1,000 population.

The Still Birth Rate is the rate per 1,000 live and still births.

Figures in brackets are the actual numbers.

These Birth and Death rates have not in this Table been weighted for comparison with other areas.

Analysis of Vital Statistics

	Male	Female	Total	Crude Rate per 1000 Population	Standardised Rate	Rate per 1000 Population England & Wales
Live Births						
Legitimate	48	47	101	14·3	17·7	16·3
Illegitimate	3	3				
Still Births						
Legitimate	2	-	2	*19·8	-	13·0
Illegitimate	-	-				
Deaths all Ages	42	39	81	11·5	10·5	11·9
Deaths under 1 year of age	3	-	3	*33·0	-	18·0

* This rate is expressed per 1000 live births.

Causes of Death

Code No.		Male	Female	Total
B17	Syphilis and its Sequelae	-	1	1
B19(1)	Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	1	-	1
B19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	1	1
B19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	1	2	3
B19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	1	1	2
B19(9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	2	-	2
B19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	1	3	4
B22	Avitaminoses, etc.	1	-	1
B46(4)	Other Diseases of Nervous System etc.	3	2	5
B27	Hypertensive Disease	1	-	1
B28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	12	8	20
B29	Other Forms of Heart Disease	2	3	5
B30	Cerebrovascular Disease	8	8	16
B46(5)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	2	3
B31	Influenza	-	1	1
B32	Pneumonia	1	3	4
B33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	1	-	1
B46(6)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	1	1
B35	Appendicitis	1	-	1
B36	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	-	1	1
B42	Congenital Anomalies	2	1	3
B43	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	1	-	1
B45	Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	1	-	1
BE47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	1
BE49	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	-	1	1
		42	39	81

Deaths 1969

Breakdown by Age Groups

	Male	Female	Total
Under 4 weeks	2	-	2
4 weeks to 1 year	1	-	1
1 - 4 years	1	-	1
5 - 14 "	-	-	-
15 - 24 "	-	1	1
25 - 34 "	-	-	-
35 - 44 "	1	-	1
45 - 54 "	2	3	5
55 - 64 "	8	2	10
65 - 74 "	10	10	20
75 and over	17	23	40
	42	39	81

Infectious Disease

Notifications Received

Disease	under 1	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 & over	age unknown	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	5
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Measles	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
											11

Monthly Notifications

Disease	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apl	May	Jne	Jly	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Scarlet Fever	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
Whooping Cough	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
													11

Tuberculosis

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
Number on Register 1st January, 1969	6	4	-	4	14
Number of cases notified during the year	-	-	-	-	-
Number restored to Register	-	-	-	-	-
Number added otherwise than by Notification	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases removed from Register	3	2	-	3	8
Number remaining on Register at 31st December, 1969	3	2	-	1	6

Details of Cases removed from Register

8 - Checked and corrected by the Chest Clinic

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION

HOUSING

Statistics for 1969

Number of inhabited houses including 486 Council-owned dwellings according to the Rate Books at 31st March, 1970.	2591
Average number of persons per house	2·73
Number of houses completed by the Council during the year	21
Number of houses built by private enterprise during the year	74
Total of post-war Council houses completed to 31.12.69.	422

Number of Improvement Grant applications approved in 1969:-

a) Discretionary	(i)	Owner-occupied properties	- 5	
	(ii)	Tenanted properties	- Nil	
b) Standard	(i)	Owner-occupied properties	- 18	
	(ii)	Tenanted properties	- 5	
			Total	28

General Inspection

a) Total number of houses inspected during the year for all purposes	134
b) Number found to be unsatisfactory in some respect	82
c) Number occupied in respect of which Demolition or Clearance Orders had been made	Nil

Housing Repairs Instigated

Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit as a result of informal action	43
Number of Scheduled (1955) unfit houses rendered fit	6

Clearance Areas

Number of Clearance Orders made	Nil

Individually Unfit Houses

No. of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made in 1969	Nil
No. of dwellings demolished as a result of Demolition Orders made previously	Nil
No. of dwellings demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure	Nil
No. of dwellings in respect of which or part of which Closing Orders were made (Secs. 16 & 18 Housing Act, 1957)	8
No. of informal undertakings not to re-let accepted	2
No. of families re-housed from unfit dwellings	6

House Improvement Grants

Details of applications received and approved during 1969 are given in the Statistical section of this Report. However, it may be of interest to note brief details of improvement schemes which were completed during the year, as follows:-

Standard Grants

Twenty dwellings, which comprised thirteen owner-occupied and seven tenanted premises, were provided with the following total number of amenities:-

17 fixed baths in a bathroom
18 wash hand basins
20 hot water systems
19 internal water closets
19 ventilated food stores

The above schemes included seven new bathroom extensions and five premises where the outbuildings were converted to form bathrooms.

The average Grant paid per house was approximately £204.

Housing Act, 1969

The above legislation came into force on 25th August, 1969, and provides a new system of grants to assist the improvement and conversion of dwellings as well as introducing a new system for the general improvement of dwellings and amenities in an area. The law relating to houses in multiple occupation, and to compensation for unfit houses, is also amended.

Fresh provision is made in the Act for the conversion of certain controlled tenancies into regulated tenancies.

Compulsory Improvement of Dwellings

No request was received from any tenant for the Council to take action under the Housing Act, 1964, whereby an owner can be compelled to provide a bathroom and hot water system in a rented dwelling which lacks them, subject to certain conditions.

Pail Closet Conversions

The number of pail closets converted to water-borne sanitation during 1969 was 31. This figure includes 8 properties which were connected to the town's sewerage system for the first time.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

No formal action was found necessary in respect of any premises let-in-lodgings or occupied by members of more than one family.

Public Health Conditions

(i) Eighty-four public health complaints were received from members of the public during 1969 and they included such items as choked and defective drainage; suspected dangerous structures; offensive smells; overflowing water cisterns; leaking eavesgutters and downpipes; accumulations of refuse, as well as several notifications of rats, mice, wasps and other insect pests.

The appropriate action was taken in each case.

(ii) Fifteen complaints, primarily concerning housing conditions were received during the year and alleged such defects as dampness and disrepair. All were investigated and where possible steps were taken to rectify the most urgent of the defects. Some of these complaints naturally came from persons on the current Housing List and living in sub-standard dwellings.

(iii) A total of fifty-two informal notices were served during the year to either abate a nuisance or secure essential repairs. Forty-four notices were complied with by the end of the year.

(iv) In no case was it found necessary to abate a nuisance by taking Statutory action, and in general, reasonable co-operation was obtained from landlords and their Agents.

Rodent Control

Number of premises treated during

		1966	1967	1968	1969
a) Dwelling houses	-	76	97	92	76
b) Other premises	-	6	30	39	15
Total treatments carried out	-	249	282	280	289

Eradication of Vermin

	1966	1967	1968	1969
a) Premises disinfested	1	1	Nil	3
b) Wasp nests destroyed	90	195	33	169

Distinctive No. or Name	Nitrogen: Ammon-iacal	Nitrogen: Album-inoid	Nitrogen: Nitrate	Nitrogen: Nitrite	Chlorion as Chlorine	Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate (4hr., 27° C.)	Hardness: Total	Hardness: Carb. (Temp.)	Hardness: Non-Carb. (Perm.)	Free Carbon Dioxide	Total Dissolved Solids at 180° C.	pH	Iron	Lead Copper Zinc	Colonies per ml. on agar at 37° C., 2 days	Probable Number per 100 ml.: Presumptive Coliform Organisms	Probable Number per 100 ml.: E. Coli Type 1
Sample received 11th November, 1969																	
Raw No. 2 Borehole Woodbridge P.S.	0·04		nil	pr.nil	248		520	330	190	50		7·0	1·0		18	nil	
Appearance: Slightly opalescent, becoming clear with yellow deposit. Deposit: Iron compounds.										Colour: Slightly yellow. Taste: Satisfactory. Odour: Nil.							
Raw, No. 3 Borehole Woodbridge P.S.	0·03	0·01	0·1	nil	106	0·24	420	315	105	42	620	7·0	0·24	nil	1	nil	
Appearance: Clear. Deposit: Nil. Colour: Nil. Taste: Satisfactory. Odour: Nil. Fluoride as F: 0·45 ppm																	
Treated Woodbridge P.S. Tower							460	320	140	38		7·0	0·05				
Appearance: Clear with a few dark particles. Deposit: Carbonates. Colour: Nil. Taste: Satisfactory.										Odour: Nil.							
THESE RESULTS ARE SATISFACTORY																	
Sample received 9th December, 1969														Cl. Welchii			
Raw Water No. 1 Borehole	0·08		nil	nil	208		515	320	195	56		7·0	0·83	nil	12	nil	
Appearance: Clear, trace of yellow deposit on standing. Deposit: Iron compounds.										Colour: Very faintly yellow. Taste: Satisfactory. Odour: Nil.							
Treated Water							510	320	190	38		7·2	0·2		1	nil	
Appearance: Clear. Taste: Satisfactory. Odour: Nil																	
THESE RESULTS ARE VERY SATISFACTORY																	

Water Supply

i) Fourteen samples of drinking water were collected for bacteriological examination during the year, comprising five samples from two wells where the occupants have no alternative supply, and nine from various mains taps throughout the district.

ii) All the samples of Town water were quite satisfactory.

iii) Seven cottages dependent on two unsatisfactory wells were provided with a mains water supply during the year.

iv) The other wells tested continued to produce an acceptable supply.

v) Details from Certificates of Analyses showing the main chemical constituents and bacteriological examination of the water from Boreholes Nos. 1, 2 and 3 at the Bredfield Road Waterworks, are given on the attached supplement, by kind permission of the Ipswich Corporation Water Undertaking, who inform me that water from the Crag Wells is no longer used.

Model Yacht Pond

Two checks were made on the quality of the River water in the Pond during the year and no salmonella or dysenteric organisms were isolated from either of the samples taken.

FOOD PREMISES

The number of premises in Woodbridge in which food of one kind or another is sold to the public is 72, four businesses having closed during the year.

The following gives the type of premises concerned:-

Bakers	1
Butchers	7
Confectioners	12
Departmental Stores	1
Fish Merchants	2
Fish & Chip Shops	3
Greengrocers, Fruiterers	5
Grocers (including small general stores)	13
Licensed Premises (hotels, public houses, off-licences) ...	18
Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars	8
Supermarkets, Food Halls	2

Food Inspection

During the year the following items were inspected, found to be unfit for human consumption and condemned, under the 'voluntary surrender' procedure:-

32 - Assorted tins of Fruit and Vegetables weighing 30lbs.10ozs.
20 - Pints Shrimps
8½lbs. - Cooked Danish Ham
147 - Mixed Frozen Food packets weighing 57lbs. approx.
2stone - Haddock Fillets
9lbs. - Tinned Pork
6lbs. - Tinned Veal
1½stone - Sprats
13lbs. - Tinned Dutch Ham in Gelatine

TOTAL WEIGHT = 1cwt.67lbs.2ozs.

A total of fourteen Certificates were issued to the four food businesses who voluntarily surrendered the above food for destruction.

Note: The above amount is again very small in comparison with the total quantity of food sold in the district.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 and 1962
Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966

Twenty-one food premises or mobile foodshops received an inspection during the year. Four had one or more items needing attention to comply with the above Regulations and informal notices were served on those persons responsible.

Three such premises or vehicles were rendered satisfactory by the end of the year.

No legal proceedings were instituted during 1969.

Foreign Bodies in Food

Three cases were reported and investigated. Steps were taken to help prevent a recurrence of the complaints which involved a piece of glass in a jar of strawberry jam; a fly in a walnut shortcake and burnt edible oil in a loaf of bread.

Sale of Unfit or Unsound Food

There were four other food complaints, three of which concerned food alleged to have been sold in a mouldy condition. A "warning" letter was sent to a shopkeeper who sold an unsound steak and kidney pie.

Ice Cream

The total number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the storage and sale of pre-packed ice cream is 25.

Three premises are also registered under this Section for the manufacture of sausages or the preparation of potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

ANNUAL REPORT

Type	On Register	Inspections	Defects	Remedied
Factories without Power	1	-	-	-
Factories with Power	31	10	5	4
TOTALS	32	10	5	4

Outworkers on Register - Two

National Assistance Act, 1948

No statutory action under Section 47 of this Act was found necessary during 1969.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963
ANNUAL REPORT

Registration and General Inspections:

CLASS of Premises	No. of premises registered during the year	No. of registered premises at 31.12.69.	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
OFFICES	4	44	Nil
RETAIL SHOPS	9	76	3
WHOLESALE SHOPS, WAREHOUSES	1	3	Nil
CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS OPEN TO PUBLIC	6	13	1
CANTEENS	Nil	Nil	Nil
FUEL STORAGE DEPOTS	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTALS	20	136	4

Number of visits of all kinds to registered premises under the Act = 79.

Note: "Registered premises" means any premises in respect of which a notice under Section 49 of the Act has been received by the local authority ... and the expression "premises registered" shall be construed accordingly.

"General inspection" means any inspection of premises to which the Act applies which is undertaken for the purposes of ascertaining whether all the relevant provisions of the Act and instruments thereunder are complied with as respects those premises.

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace:

CLASS of Workplace	No. of persons employed				
	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
OFFICES	263	269	280	289	330
RETAIL SHOPS	311	321	328	341	328
WHOLESALE SHOPS, WAREHOUSES	41	42	21	22	26
CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC	42	42	42	48	70
CANTEENS	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
FUEL STORAGE DEPOTS	9	9	9	9	Nil
TOTAL	666	683	680	709	754
TOTAL MALES	309	313	302	314	339
" FEMALES	357	370	378	395	415

Reported Accidents

A single accident was notified during the year, which involved one employee being off work for nine days. The accident occurred in a busy butcher's shop and an investigation into the circumstances revealed that the cause of the accident was due to the prominence of metal strengtheners fixed to a badly worn-down chopping block. Injuries were abrasions to the right hand which later turned septic.

This chopping block and a further block seen at the rear of the shop in a similar worn condition were found to be still in use at the time of inquiry, sixteen days after the accident occurred. It is thought the accident could have been prevented by replacing the chopping block well before it reached its worn-out and dangerous condition.

The employers had their attention drawn to the matter, pointing out that the continued use of such worn blocks presented a real hazard to their many employees and asking for their replacement at the earliest opportunity.

Contraventions

No serious defects were found in any registered premises during the year. The usual faults noted are in connection with the sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, or failure to display the necessary notices.